IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) There is no firing practice range for the Bofors Guns in the Sivalik Hills adjoining the Rajaji National Park. There are two firing practice ranges in the Sivalik Hills Area, namely, Raipur Range and Asan Range, which are far away from the Rajaji National Park. Government have received no complaint about firing practice in these two ranges.

(b) Government are not aware of any such international wild life rules.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Sivalik area is reported to be a fragile ecological zone.

Clearance of Sunderbans Delta Project

2753. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sunderbans Delta Project of West Bengal is lying with the Central Government ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay to clear the project ;

(c) when it was received; and

(d) by when it is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The Government of West Bengal has to modify the Report based on the results of the model study for dependable quantification of the likely siltation in the post-project condition.

Threat to Rail Lines and National Highways by Ganga Erosion

2754. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that railway lines and national highways in the Murshidabad area were being threatened by the Ganga erosion ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) steps to be taken by the Government to protect these which are now being threatened by erosion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have executed the necessary works at an expenditure of about Rs. 2 crores. In addition, the Ministry of Railways have agreed to share expenditure upto Rs. 2.54 crores, as a one-time measure, when the Government of West Bengal take up the bank protection works in the vulnerable reaches at Sankopara, Durgapur and Bajitpur.

Threat to Feeder Canal between the Ganga and the Bhagirathi

2755. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the feeder canal between the Ganga and the Bhagirathi had been threatened ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Financial Assistance to check Land Erosion

2756. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to check land erosion in the border district of West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide financial assistance to State Government to check this erosion as the country is losing its lands and on the other hand the Bangladesh is gaining ;

(d) is so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) The Government of West Bengal have been executing protection works at vulnerable reaches to restrict bank erosion, including in the border districts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Such works are financed from State sector plan outlays.

Central aid to West Bengal

2757. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the per capita Central aid to West Bengal in the Eighth Five Year Plan which was quite low in earlier plans ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) The allocation of Central assistance is presently determined on the basis of the principles embodied in the modified Gadgil formula. At present there is no indication of either the total qunatum of Central assistance or the criteria for its allocation to various States for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Import of semi/completely knocked down sets

2758. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total value of semi-knocked down and completely knocked-down sets of entertainment electronics imported from Japan and Germany since 1980 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : Import of Semi-knocked down/Completely knocked down kits for consumer electronics products is banned. However under onetime ad hoc arrangements for ASIAD'82, import of 90,000 Colour Television kits